agencies will fix their own standards. The Quality Council of India, which is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has set up a National Accreditation Board of Hospital (NABH).

The purpose of accreditation/rating is to assure the patients about the quality of services available in the accredited hospital.

HIV infection

†3742. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 196 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 2006 and state:

(a) whether the parents of Rashmi are HIV positive;

(b) if not, and if she has been given the right blood, how she has been found to be HIV positive; and

(c) whether the HIV virus can enter into the body of the girl through any other route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The parents of Rashmi as on 18-10-2005 were found to be HIV negative. The present HIV status of the parents is not known, because they are reluctant to undergo repeat test six months.

(b) and (c) As per the report received from Kerala State AIDS Control Society, the baby was born by a caesarian section in a private hospital (Sree Ramakrishna Hospital) at Sasthamangalam, Trivandrum, Kerala. The report indicated that the blood given to the child was tested as per the statutory requirements for screening of blood transmissible diseases including HIV and the blood unit was transfused only after finding that all tests were negative.

There is a possibility that she had acquired the infection through HIV infected blood in window period (which cannot be detected by HIV antibody test for initial 8-10 weeks) or due to inappropriate universal safety precautions during her stay in the hospital.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.